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**From:** Colleen Cripps  
**Sent:** Tue 8/5/2014 5:20:47 PM  
**Subject:** Eureka Update for August 2014

Good morning,

Work continues in Eureka to address lead and arsenic soil contamination. The following is an update of recent and upcoming actions by EPA and NDEP at the site:

### **Voluntary Residential Soil Sampling and Cleanup**

During 2013 and 2014, the EPA's contractor completed soil sampling at 87 properties and cleanup at 43 properties. The field work was done with pre-approval from property owners on a voluntary basis. Prior to beginning work on each property, EPA's archaeological consultant conducts a literature search of the property and performs a field inspection. This information is summarized in a letter, which is sent to the State Historic Preservation Office. The archaeologist and a Duckwater Tribal Monitor are present during excavation activities and document any historical items discovered. This year's field work included sampling and analysis of soil at 13 Eureka County properties. Based on approval from Eureka County, two of those properties underwent cleanup due to elevated lead and arsenic results in a residential setting. Field work this year was completed by July 28. The EPA and their contractor are working with additional property owners to schedule approximately 15 property cleanups in 2015.

### **Evaluation of Cleanup Options**

The EPA continues to develop an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) study to evaluate options and costs for addressing long term exposure to lead and arsenic contaminated soil in town, and intends to have the study completed by the end of 2014. The study will focus on the feasibility and implementation aspects concerning long term exposure risk and contaminant migration concerns, and appropriate actions at slag piles, former smelter properties, and other currently occupied and unoccupied properties. The results of the study can be used to request additional funding to address the remaining sources of lead and arsenic in town. The EE/CA is being completed as an alternative to listing Eureka on the Superfund National Priority List. NDEP continues to work closely with the EPA and Eureka County on public outreach associated

with the study and to coordinate public input on the range of options considered.

### **Blood Lead Level Testing**

Free blood lead level testing continues to be offered at the Eureka Medical Clinic as a result of grant funding provided to NDEP by the EPA. The current contract between NDEP and Nevada Rural Health Centers to provide the testing extends through June 2015. During the first six months of 2014, 21 Eureka residents were tested for blood-lead levels. Twelve children, ages two to sixteen years old were tested. Of these 12 children, four children ranging in age from 2 to 7 years old had blood-lead levels between 4.9 and 10.3 micrograms per deciliter (ug/dl). Eight children had levels below the detection limit of the instrument (3.3 ug/dl). NDEP has requested that the clinic recommend confirmatory analysis via venous testing for individuals with initial levels above 5.0 ug/dl since concentrations above this level are associated with potential neurological health effects in children ages zero to six. Additional testing is at the discretion of the individual and their family in consultation with their physician. Direct observation of health effects in individuals has not been reported in Eureka, which is typically the case at these levels.

### **Coordination with Eureka County and Community Outreach**

NDEP and EPA stayed in close communication with Eureka County officials prior to and during the field work completed this year from late April to the end of July. Topics of discussion have included the EE/CA study and the community involvement component associated with it; siting, engineering and permitting a long term soil repository located on county-owned property northeast of town; and sampling county-owned property developed for public or residential use. Updates on field work progress this season were also provided to the County Commissioners at select County Commissioner meetings. At the County Sheriff's request, NDEP and EPA will be attending Eureka's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out event on August 5<sup>th</sup>. This event provides stakeholders in the community an opportunity to discuss their operation and involvement in the community, and allows residents to ask questions in a relaxed environment. NDEP and EPA will be proposing details of a Community Involvement Plan for the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis to the Eureka County Commission during a September commission meeting.

Feel free to give me a call if you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,

Colleen

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